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4.
- US propaganda doesn't reach the people at all. [redacted] never saw a copy of the magazine Amerika. The immigrant press here is interesting. [redacted] the VOA in Germany, but alone it is not enough, especially since radio sets are owned by people of trust. No one is able to get anything except a distorted picture of American and Western policy. For example, the Soviet press carried the story of the Oklahoma Indian who was refused burial in Sioux City, Iowa, but not the sequel of his burial in Arlington Cemetery.
- People who did come back from the West have brought their impressions and stimulated great interest. The number runs into millions, but, the regime does everything to suppress it. The government suppresses any favorable mention of the US scientists or American machines, etc. Every "healthy thinking" person knows how untrue Soviet propaganda is. The Soviet people know how to evaluate their own propaganda. The greatest Soviet propaganda effort is directed abroad.
- Every Soviet citizen sees the facts of life about him, while the Soviet papers tell him that this life is paradise. Consequently he turns the propaganda around 180°. When the Soviet people read all the anti-US propaganda--all its bad features--they have a tendency to turn the propaganda around. Take, for example, the following joke: A peasant went to town and decided to buy sausages for the first time. No sausages were available anywhere, so he decided to buy a newspaper, since "they have everything in the papers." However, the new generation coming up has not been outside and is more likely to have and to keep many misconceptions.

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STATE	EV	X	NAVY	X															
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5. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 It is only when a school child leaves school, faces the facts of life, and has to stand on his own feet that he begins to question the official image of Soviet life in which he believed. For example, the Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of labor and yet the youngster of 15 finds that a neighbor was sentenced to two years of collective labor for being 15 minutes late to work.
6. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED] Part
- 50X1 of the disillusioning process started when [REDACTED] had to stand in line for bread for hours. Then I heard the complaints of people in the food and other queues.
7. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 There are a few fanatics. All are opportunists. No one can permit East-West rapprochement except if life were on the same economic level. Therefore, any close relationship must be prevented.
10. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 If ideas of Communism could be put in practice, that would be fine. So far as the people are concerned, the system is immaterial--material considerations are primary. The people consider the government, and in the final analysis, Stalin, responsible.
11. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 The government is the party--people consider both the same, as in practice they are inseparable.
12. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 No one, neither peasants, workers nor the elite, talks politics. People noted what happened to Zhdanov and Zhukov. Stalin is extremely sensitive on this subject.
13. [REDACTED]
- 50X1 [REDACTED]
- 50X1 If two people are together--very close friends, who trust each other--they may open up. But if there is the slightest suspicion, then their talk is in very general terms.
14. [REDACTED]

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No one man is indispensable and the death of Stalin will not cause much change. Zhukov would like to remake the regime and there are others like him in the Army who would also like to do so.

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The people are unable to learn currently about US policy or about "what Americans are" because radio programs inevitably reach only a small, upper class segment of the population. The only way to reach a large audience would be through written material. The people want to have more current information regarding Americans and US policy as they have learned a great deal about the outside world, and to some extent about Americans, from the reports of the troops who have been in Central and Eastern Europe and, to some extent, from lower echelons of delegations sent to western countries.

All people who read the Soviet newspapers or hear the Soviet radio know that the regime lies to them. The people tend to believe the exact opposite of that which is put out as fact by the regime. In respect to internal matters the people perceive through their daily experience that the regime lies. This tends to make them reject what the regime says currently about external matters, even though this cannot be checked personally. The reports of those who have been outside reinforce this tendency to disbelieve the regime's propaganda about external matters. With little or no current contacts with the outside world, people would tend toward some measure of acceptance of this propaganda.

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The segment of population most likely to be vulnerable to the regime's propaganda is the young people in school, in industrial training programs and to some extent in the military forces. This group is less exposed to the realities of life in the Soviet Union. Those who work and have to assume responsibility come to recognize the falsity of regime propaganda. However, to some extent, even this young group becomes skeptical as a result of indoctrination from older people, who still have great influence, and personal observation. A very interesting paradox is that the schools expound the noble sentiments of the Soviet Constitution, despite the blatant disregard of the Constitution by the regime.

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All classes in the Soviet Union recognize the general falsity of the regime's claims, and many of the elements of Soviet weakness--because of some form of personal experience. For example, troops riding in both American and Soviet type trucks recognize that Soviet trucks are inferior. Again the peasant recognizes that agriculture is not practiced as described in the press. This recognition of the truth was described as reaching high administrative circles.

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most or all social and economic classes are hostile to the regime except for the "assured" and "privileged" class.

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do not think that this upper class has any significant degree of good qualities. A minority are fanatical Marxists, apparently immune to reason. The majority are opportunists who accept any given official line but who would be ready to desert the regime if their own interests so dictated.

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do not wish to imply that the opportunists might desert the regime early enough to be of some value in bringing about its collapse.

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50X1 [redacted] most people feel that Communism would result in good,  
50X1 if really applied, but that the regime is simply employing Communism as a "screen"  
50X1 for its own purposes. Basically, in the minds of the people, it is not so much  
50X1 a matter of ideology as of the practical results. [redacted]  
50X1 [redacted] any ideology or political form would be acceptable if it resulted in a  
decent life.

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There is considerable freedom within family groups to discuss the regime in an adverse manner. In social functions with more than two people together there is great caution in the discussion of anything that might offend representatives of the regime. On the other hand, two friends might freely discuss forbidden matters, including criticism of Stalin, the defection of some third person, etc. The regime is very sensitive to the tendency of the people to continue to contrast Soviet achievements unfavorably with those of Western countries, and, since it would be impossible for the regime to continue to exist if freer contacts were established with the outside world, the regime cannot implement a policy of "peaceful co-existence" between the Soviet sphere and the Western sphere.

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